

TRIBUTE TO GENE CALLAHAN

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, at the beginning of the 105th congressional session, a close friend of mine, Gene Callahan, retired and moved back to our home state of Illinois. Prior to Gene's retirement, he served as the director of government relations for Major League Baseball here in Washington, DC. Many of you may remember Gene as former U.S. Senator Alan J. Dixon's (IL) chief of staff. Gene and I have been in politics for many years beginning with the Illinois Democratic Party and working with my predecessor here in the Senate, former U.S. Senator Paul Simon when Senator Simon was the Illinois Lt. Governor, some thirty years ago.

Gene loves the game of baseball so I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to wish my dear friends, Gene and Ann Callahan, the best. I thought it fitting that the Callahans return to the great state of Illinois during this exciting baseball season and the home run chase between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. In fact, Gene and Ann's son, Dan, is the head baseball coach at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. I know firsthand, that Gene will stay involved with baseball, and rest assured, I will call on him for political advice from time to time.

As the baseball season draws to a close with the World Series, I want to thank everyone connected with Major League Baseball for a great summer. The home run chase with McGwire and Sosa was a baseball fan's dream. It brought a sense of what's good about America to the forefront. America can't wait for spring training!•

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with a sense of disappointment and frustration that Congress is adjourning without reauthorizing the Older Americans Act. Our senior citizens deserve better.

In January, our Nation will enter the fourth year without an authorization for Older American programs which provide a multitude of support services for our Nation's elderly including: community-based long-term care, transportation, legal services, adult day care, "Meals on Wheels" and senior citizens centers. For our Nation's Indian tribes, it is the cornerstone of programs for their elderly and is the only federal legislation that allows them to directly plan for the needs of their elderly based on their culture and traditions.

My personal concern about the lack of authorization for the OAA programs was heightened while traveling around my home state of Arizona. I continually hear from seniors concerned that the OAA programs are at serious risk because of Congress' failure to reauthorize them. They are particularly disturbed that funding for the programs has not been keeping up with in-

flation, thereby jeopardizing important programs for the most vulnerable elderly.

I recognize the commitment of the Senate Subcommittee on Aging to produce a reauthorization bill, but I became concerned when the committee did not produce an OAA bill by July. It became clear to me that the limited time left in Congress' schedule would prevent the committee from completing their work and moving a bill through the full legislative process.

This is why, on July 13, I introduced S. 2295, the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. I simply could not allow another year to go by without reaffirming Congress' support and commitment to older Americans.

This bill would reauthorize the OAA using the same language from the 1992 reauthorization which expired in 1995. The bill would extend the OAA until 2001, giving the Subcommittee on Aging and Congress sufficient time to thoroughly evaluate these programs and reconcile differences on the reforms needed if we are to ensure the relevance of the OAA, continue to meet our obligations to our current seniors, and be more adequately prepared to meet the needs of future seniors.

Sixty-seven of my colleagues agree that Congress should reauthorize the OAA this year and alleviate the fears of our Nation's senior citizens who believe that these programs are in jeopardy. It is disheartening that a bill with such broad bipartisan support was prevented from being implemented due to the objections of a small minority. I am confident that their concerns could have been addressed even as we moved forward on a short-term extension.

I remain committed to resolving this issue next year and will work with Senators GREGG and MIKULSKI to develop a bill that strengthens and more effectively defines the OAA programs for our Nation's elderly. It is imperative that we continue our efforts on behalf of older Americans and pass a bill which recognizes their unique needs and addressed those needs by reauthorizing the programs of the Older Americans Act.●

PIERCE J. GERETY, JR.

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and a great humanitarian—Pierce Gerety, Jr., whose life was tragically cut short last month when Swissair Flight 111 crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia. Pierce Gerety, Jr. was a remarkable man, and he will be dearly missed.

Pierce Gerety dedicated his entire life to humanitarian causes. The nephew of two priests, Pierce once aspired to enter the priesthood himself. After graduating from Yale, he went to Paris to study theology and philosophy at the Institute Catholique, where he found time to set up a soup kitchen. However, he soon changed his mind about becoming a priest when he met his future wife Marie de la Soudiere.

After he was married, he and Marie went to India to work for Catholic Relief Services. He returned to the United States in 1968, and became a social-service case worker in New York City. He then attended Harvard Law School and after graduating in 1971, he worked as a legal aid and civil rights attorney. In 1980, he began his career in refugee work in Thailand with the International Rescue Committee, and, in 1982, he went to work at the United Nations. He became a legal officer at the headquarters of the U.N. High Commissioner in Geneva, and he eventually became a deputy director to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, but he always longed to be in the field working with those who needed help.

He took on a number of difficult assignments, helping refugees in crisis situations in the Philippines, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. In fact, his colleagues have said that Pierce Gerety put himself in more dangerous situations than any other person in the refugee field. When a warlord in Somalia kidnapped some humanitarian aid workers, Pierce Gerety went into that warlord's armed camp and negotiated their release. Last year, he and other officials pled with the Congolese rebel leader Laurent Kabila to end the slaughter of Rwandan refugees.

It is ironic that this man, who repeatedly placed himself in harm's way to protect refugees around the globe, would lose his life in such a senseless accident.

Pierce Gerety, Jr. brought an uncommon intelligence, courage, and devotion to his work. He has touched the lives of countless individuals in a positive way. And his impact is not only felt by refugees around the globe, it is felt by his many peers and friends whom he inspired to do more in their own lives to help persons in need.

He is survived by his wife Marie and his three children Sebastian, Pierce, and Maeve. He is also survived by his mother Helen, and his three brothers Tom, Peter, and Miles. I offer my heartfelt sympathies to them all.●

SECRET SERVICE SPECIAL AGENT
CARL TRUSCOTT

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and deep appreciation for the work and dedication of Secret Service Special Agent Carl Truscott, who was detailed to the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations during the 105th Congress.

Nearly two years ago, Carl joined the Subcommittee staff as a detailee from the Secret Service. As a seventeen year veteran of the agency, and a member of three Presidential details, Carl was brought on to lend his extensive law enforcement expertise and knowledge to the appropriations process. As the lead staffer handling the appropriations for the Department of Justice,